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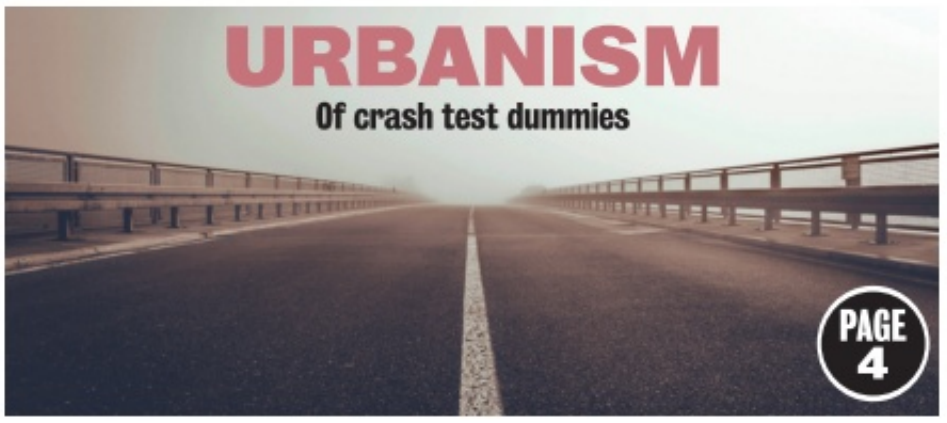
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 21 | Humidity 63% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 57,960 | Nifty 17,080 | Gold 58,873 | Silver 70,615 | Dollar 82.20 | Euro 89.07 | GBP 101.27



Activists question BBMP's Rs 3-crore tender for assembly poll-related catering services in 7 constituencies of central zone

DUTY AND THE FEAST

Rs 1 crore for videographer & video camera services

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It seems the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is at the forefront when it comes to wasting taxpayers' money without remorse. The cvic body was in the news for the high cost of renting beds at covid care centres in 2020.

Now, the BBMP is again in the news for floating a tender for catering service during election training sessions in seven assembly constituencies. The amount put to the tender is a whopping Rs 3 crore.

The assistant commissioner (elections-central), BBMP, floated the tender on March 24 on behalf of the additional district election officer (central), BBMP, inviting supply of catering service to election training, returning officer offices, mustering and de-mustering centres, counting centres and other places in seven assembly constituencies under the jurisdiction.

Bengaluru has 28 assembly constituencies (including Anekal). If the BBMP is to spend Rs 3 crore for seven assembly constituencies, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

PAGE 6
Dates out; K'taka all set

> "I am of the opinion that authorities must ensure supply of working lunch for the employees on election duty
>
> — Kathyayini Chamaraj, executive trustee, CIVIC Bangalore

LPG price burns holes in hoteliers' pockets

Hotels planning to increase prices of items in menu as last resort

| Vismaya Vinay
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The sharp hike in the prices of commercial LPG cylinders is adversely affecting the daily business of hoteliers in Bengaluru. The prices of commercial LPG gas cylinders of 19 kg were increased by Rs 351 from the first of March.

The president of Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association PC Rao told BM that the surge in the prices of commercial cylinders has affected hoteliers to a great extent. "However, under the given circumstances we are managing now. The government revoked the Rs 250 discount on cylinders for the past six months. The association has brought this issue to the notice of the Central minister; the minister has promised to reduce the prices in April. The association is looking forward to the response from the government," Rao said.

The increase in the prices of commercial cylinders has affected the profit margins of several hoteliers. Customers as well as hoteliers are bearing the brunt of the surge in prices.

"On average, our hotel requires 6-7 cylinders a day. The current prices of cylinders has affected our profit margin. Ever since the government revoked the discount, our profit was reduced by Rs 70,000. The surge in the prices of cylinders has reduced our profit furthermore. Considering the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Slice of Rajasthan

Catch a special Rajasthani handloom exhibition that is displaying ethnic and contemporary arts and crafts, clothing, handloom sarees, jewellery, home décor, furniture, and handicraft products direct from the artisans and craft persons from across India. **Where: Bdk Kalyana Mandapa, Yelahanka; When: Till April 16, 10:30 am – 8.30 pm Phones: 89518 99961 / 94829 59786**

02 Stories and more

Join Atta Galatta to celebrate the launch of the BWW Bangalore Anthology, with authors Yogesh Kannan Mariappan, Ashish A, Sushma Madappa, and Avishek Chakrobarty. BWW is the first-of-its-kind writing and storytelling school established in Bangalore in 2011. **Where: Atta Galatta When: April 1, 5 pm**

03 The fifth wall

The digital archive The Fifth gathers films, reportages, moderations, texts, letters and photos by the filmmaker and editor Navina Sundaram (1945–2022) from over 40 years of her work in television. Sourced from the archives of German public-service broadcasters (ARD) and Sundaram's private archive, The Fifth Wall is a curated look at German migration and media history. **Where: Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan When: April 5, 4 pm – 7 pm; Info: www.ssaf.in**

Land war where kids are in the crosshairs

Playschool in Yelahanka alleges private university has swindled them and is planning to demolish their property

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Parents of nearly 300 students of Akshara Montessori House of Children in Yelahanka are having sleepless nights. As the school is all set to enter its vicennial year, it is facing the threat of demolition, in what is being described by the school management as a real estate coup.

According to the parents and school management, a city-based private university has swindled the school land and is planning to demolish the school with immediate effect and without any prior notice to the parents. Parents worry this will impact all students' futures.

"The school has around 300 students. Parents got to know only on Monday this week that the school is getting demolished by the said university by the end of this month. There are children in higher classes. As members of the community and as parents, we strongly believe that this would have a detrimental impact on the education and future of our children," said Chella Kishore, a parent.

Parents say an abrupt closure of the school would mean that the children would have to be moved to other schools. However, they say it is extremely difficult to look for admissions in other schools considering most schools will soon be closing admissions, especially for higher classes.

"It is not just about getting our children admitted to any school. There are no Montessori curriculum schools till class 10 in the vicinity. We as parents believe that a sudden shift for our children will have a long and profound impact on their mental health including causing disruptions to their daily routines and social development along with impacts on learning," said another parent.

When BM reached out to the school management, they said the management will soon be filing a criminal case against the person who bought the school land by making false claims and promises.

"The person who bought the land on the pretext of helping me in running the school has cheated me. He pretended to be an independent buyer although he now has turned out to be the said university's front. The university, now with land papers, has sent me a termination letter. We are planning to file a criminal case against the person. While parents are in a panic mode and worried about the future of their children, I would like to inform them that no private institution can be demolished abruptly unless all the students are relocated to other institutions," said Sophie Shivashankar, founder and principal of Akshara Montessori House of Children.

> **"The person who bought the land on the pretext of helping me run the school has cheated me** – Sophie Shivashankar, founder and principal of Akshara Montessori House of Children.

The disgruntled parents have now reached out to BC Nagesh, minister of primary and secondary education, along with area MLA seeking help in the matter. They have requested that the school should continue normal functioning with no disruption for the upcoming academic year 2023-2024.

"The university has purchased the land and is planning to demolish the school with immediate effect. We strongly believe that this would have a detrimental impact on the education and future of our children. We have thus reached out to the education department for their intervention and guidance to resolve the issue," added Kishore.

Civic body's election banquet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

remaining assembly constituencies need Rs 9 crore to supply food to the staff on election duty or those attending election training.

"Floating the tender for catering services at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore is an act of wasting taxpayers' money.

I want the BBMP to utilise the money to distribute affidavits filed by the candidates among the voters in respective constituencies.

I am of the opinion that the authorities ensure supply of working lunch (vegetarian) for the employees on election duty," said Kathyayini Chamaraj, executive trustee, CIVIC Bangalore.

The BBMP also decided to spend Rs 1 crore for the supply of videographer and video camera services for the election duty purpose and for squads for the seven assembly constituencies in the central zone. "The BBMP wanted to make money by floating a tender with a huge amount.

The authorities can purchase video cameras for such a huge amount of Rs 1 crore instead of hiring videographers and video cameras. The objective of floating the tender is to loot the taxpayers' money," said S Amaresh, a RTI activist.

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are supposed to be used for the state assembly elections but the BBMP wants to spend Rs 90 lakh for the seven assembly constituencies to supply election printing items and Rs 65 lakh for the election items and stationery to polling stations in the seven assembly constituencies. They have also decided to spend Rs 40 lakh for hiring cars along with drivers during the elections.

On the BBMP taking the decision to spend such a huge amount, BH Veeresh of Mahiti Hakku Adhyayana Kendra said the BBMP has to provide details on the number of employees assigned for poll duty and the number of days food should be supplied in the seven assembly constituencies.

"The BBMP authorities are looting public money by floating tenders offering such a huge amount to the service providers," said Veeresh. Meanwhile, assistant commissioner (elections-central), BBMP, was not available for comment.

This was no boy-meets-girl story, it was a robbers' trap

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Police have arrested a gang of five who robbed a man of gold jewellery, iPhone, and money by honey trapping him. Bannerghatta police have seized an iPhone, 68 grams of gold jewellery that include a pair of earrings, a finger ring, a gold chain, a bike, and a scooter from the accused.

The accused has been identified as Ruteek alias Vishnu, 23, a BCom student from Gottigere, Mohammad Asif, 22, an AC technician from JP Nagar, Yasin Pasha, 20, a goods vehicle mechanic from Bommanahalli, Sameer alias Irfan, 21, a delivery boy.

Ruteek used a female friend to trap his schoolmate Shashank through Instagram, police said.

Later the girl invited the victim to Bannerghatta National Park. As per the plan, Ruteek sent his four friends there who attacked him with a wooden stick. They stole money and a phone from him and fled the scene.

CRIME FILES

Newborn found abandoned

A newborn baby was found abandoned near a temple in Yeshwanthpur on Tuesday. Locals heard the baby crying and informed the police. Arriving at the scene, the police immediately called an ambulance and took the baby to a hospital. An FIR has been registered under IPC 317 at Yeshwanthpur police station.

Body found in burnt scrap car

The body of a person was found in a burnt car in the Kodigehalli Police Station limits. The burnt car was noticed by locals from a distance on Wednesday morning. On closer inspection, they noticed the body in the car. They immediately alerted the police. A case has been registered at Kodigehalli police station.

The police suspected that the person who is yet to be identified was sleeping in the car during the night. The accident took place around 1 am. After picking up the garbage, the man was sleeping in the scrap car. Later, there was a fire in the car and the man was burnt alive.

Donations were just an excuse...

Woman was actually looking for things to steal; in this case it was a baby

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After the arrest of a woman in the abduction of a 40-day-old baby, police suspect the accused may have been involved in such kidnappings before too. Police said the woman accused Ayesha would often approach homes posing as a worker asking for donations for a charitable organisation. She is said to have then also stolen valuables from the homes.

> **We will be conducting a zonal level meeting through police officers and all officers of children and women protection wing**
>
> –Naganna Gowda, KSCPCR

Police said she used to distribute fliers and ask for donations to gain entry into the houses. When the people went into the room to get money, she would steal things from the house or their babies and run away.

"Initially she only stole phones and other valuables but later she started abducting children. She often used to commit crimes at night using a knife," said the police.

Currently, the police have started a probe on where these children are sent.

Nagasimha G Rao, child rights activist and director of Child Rights Trust, told BM that people should be on alert and inform the child helpline if they see any suspicious activity.

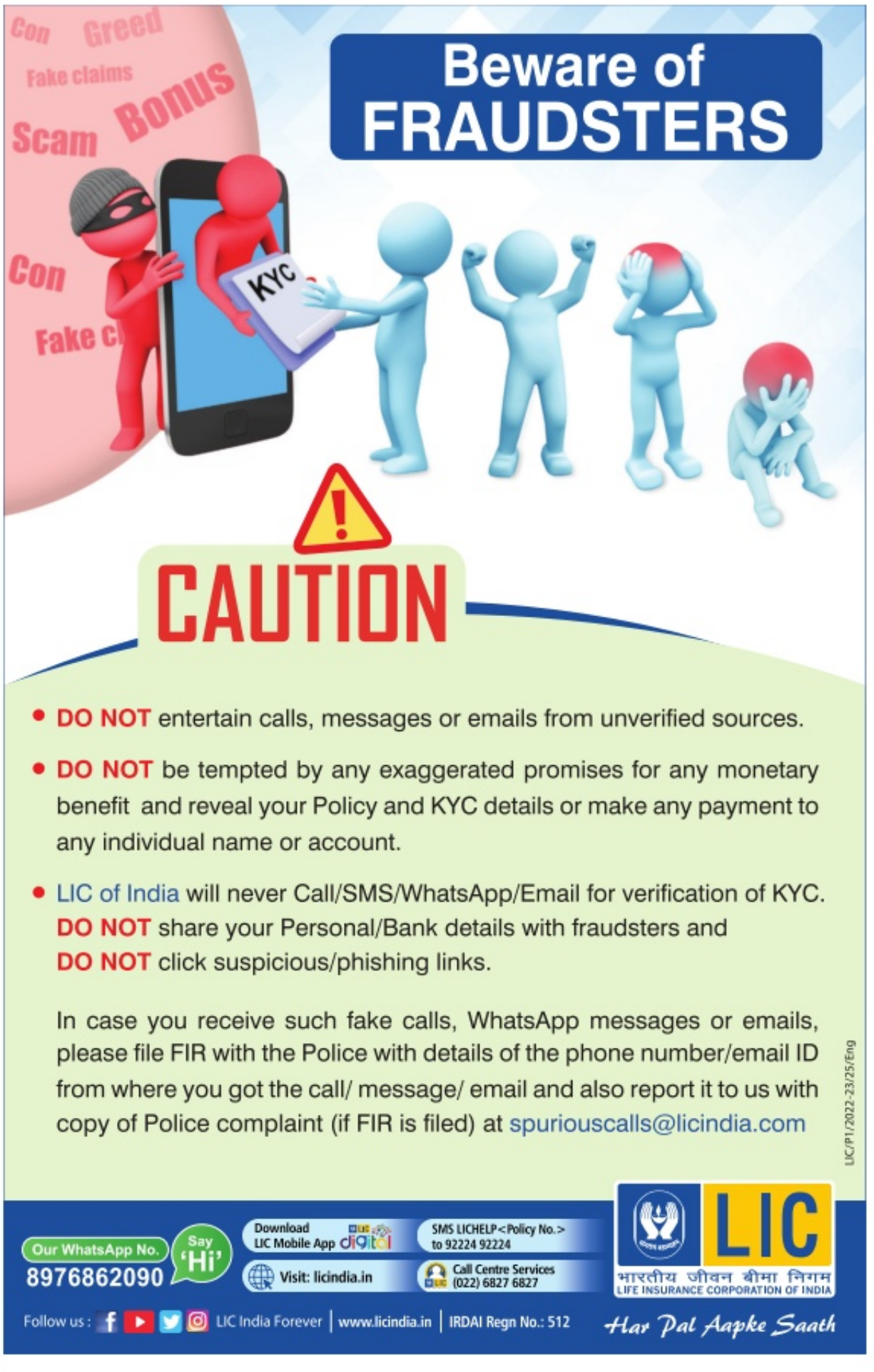
"There has been an increase in child abductions post covid. But there are enforcements as well. There are CCTV cameras everywhere and there are police on the ground. But people have to be alert who they let into their homes," he said.

Naganna Gowda, chairperson of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, told BM they are planning to conduct a meeting at BBMP levels where officers of all six zones will discuss steps to reduce child abductions. "We will be conducting a zonal level meeting through police officers and all officers of children and women protection wing and we will advise them to take precautions and measures to curb cases of child theft," he said.

Apps 'controlled' by Chinese actors in radar

Funds worth about Rs 106 crore kept in various payment gateway merchant IDs and bank accounts have been attached under the anti-money laundering law as part of an ongoing investigation against mobile phone-based loan apps "controlled" by Chinese nationals, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Wednesday.

The money laundering case was filed by the federal agency after it took cognisance of some Bengaluru Police FIRs filed against numerous entities who "extorted and harassed" those people who took small amounts of loan through mobile apps. **PTI**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Crash test dummies at Bommanahalli Junction

Police and other agencies conduct tactical urbanism trials to check road safety at spot prone to accidents

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Once the tactical urbanism interventions are proven at Bommanahalli Junction, the relevant government agencies are expected to make them permanent

The city police, along with other agencies, conducted a tactical urbanism (TU) trial on Wednesday at Bommanahalli Junction, which is one of the most accident prone areas in the city. Between 2018 and 2021, there were 34 crashes at this location, of which eight were fatal.

Tactical urbanism trials are temporary, quick, and relatively low-cost interventions that test out urban design, transportation planning, and infrastructural changes aimed at improving road safety for all road users, particularly the most vulnerable such as pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorised transport users.

Once the interventions are proven at Bommanahalli Junction, the relevant government agencies are expected to make them permanent.

Bangalore Mirror
Drive slow, it's dangerous here
BM's report on February 26, 2023. India is second in terms of total accidents across 207 countries

Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported as to how this junction was one of the worst black spots in the country. The major TU interventions undertaken at the Bommanahalli Junction include the provision of dedicated waiting spaces, a continuous crosswalk, and pathways for pedestrians.

To reduce the conflict between different types of road users at the junction, the interventions undertaken include carving out dedicated space for auto stands and parking, the provision of pick-up and drop-off spaces, road geometry correction, and the installation of wayfinding signages, both for pedestrians and vehicles.

> **"Of the 34 crashes between 2018 and 2021, 14 involved pedestrians. These TU trials will help to make junction safer** – Vivek Jaiswal, NHAI

Vivek Jaiswal, Regional Officer, Bengaluru,NHAI, said, "Of the 34 crashes registered between 2018 and 2021, 14 involved pedestrians. These TU trials will help find apt solutions necessary to address the concerns identified at Bommanahalli Junction and make it safer for all road users."

According to police, a T-junction located at the intersection of National Highway 44 and Begur Road, the Bommanahalli Junction is also in the vicinity of two metro stations, which contribute to heavy pedestrian footfall.

With an average of approximately 65,000 pedestrians and approximately 2, 28,000 vehicles using the location on a daily basis, the Bommanahalli Junction experiences heavy pedestrian footfall and vehicular movement.

Piyush Tewari, CEO, SaveLIFE Foundation said, "The redesigning of the Bommanahalli Junction has led to a 58 per cent reduction in the total pedestrian exposure distance, and a 263 per cent increase in the public space available for pedestrians."

Further, Parthanil Ghosh, president- retail business, HDFC ERGO General Insurance, said, "According to a World Bank report, India accounts for 11 per cent of overall global road deaths."

Do away with this waste processing plant

After Bangalore Mirror brought up the issue of the unhygienic situation that the residents of Banashankari 6th phase are living in due to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) wet waste processing unit in the vicinity, the area MLA has intervened, yet again.

A delegation of nearly a dozen residents met with the politician and highlighted the urgent need to move the plant out of the area with immediate effect.

"The MLA met with us, and we brought to light all the issues that we are facing due to the wet waste processing unit by BBMP. He has assured us of an alternative solution. However, we clarified that the residents are not looking for an alternative but for the plant to be moved out," said T Ravi, a resident of the area. Further, residents said

> **We have clarified that the residents are not looking for an alternative but for the plant to be moved out** – T Ravi, a resident of the area

that while they have been running from pillar to post to ensure that the plant is shifted from the area due to health concerns among the locals, all their efforts have been in vain so far.

"We have also reached out to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) recently. We also met the officials concerned from BBMP. However, we were told that both agencies are looking at scientific upgrading of the wet waste processing unit to convert it to waste to compressed natural gas (CNG) on the bio-methanation model. This is despite our emphasis that this place is not suitable for any such plant," said another member of the delegation.

Locals say while the civic body got the permission to restart the unit on conditions of fulfilling certain guidelines laid down by KSPCB, many of those directions have not been adhered to.

"Both KSPCB and BBMP have mentioned in the past that a buffer zone of 200 metre around the plant will be created. When BBMP received permission to restart the plant a year ago, they were given a list of guidelines to adhere to. One of the guidelines was the creation of a buffer zone. It has been more than a year since the plant became operational, but the buffer zone has not been created," added Ravi.

Hundreds of residents from the area had also gathered nearly a month ago to protest over the unbearable stench emanating from the waste processing unit.

The residents have been complaining about the foul smell and untreated plant waste that has turned the area into a fly breeding site. They complain that the non-stop stench and unhygienic conditions are leading to health issues among the children and elderly in the area. — BMB

Bangalore Mirror
Stench from waste processing unit, health complications and swarm of flies leave residents of area in a fix
ATTACK OF STINK FLY
Plant became operational a year ago
BM's report on March 28, 2023 about health hazards of the BBMP's wet waste processing unit

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Don't block
KR Puram

KR Puram market and the bus stop area is full of garbage due to local vendors and auto drivers who block the road from 5am until evening.

Save water
Vasanth Nagar

In ward 94, opposite to Micro Labs on 34 Race Course Road in Vasanth Nagar, precious drinking water is being wasted due to leak. Can BBMP and BWSSB work together?

Give space
Ashok Nagar

Vehicles parked in front of the residents' house gates at back gate of Catholic Club, near Pulliyar Koli Street in Ashok Nagar, are making it difficult to enter and exit.

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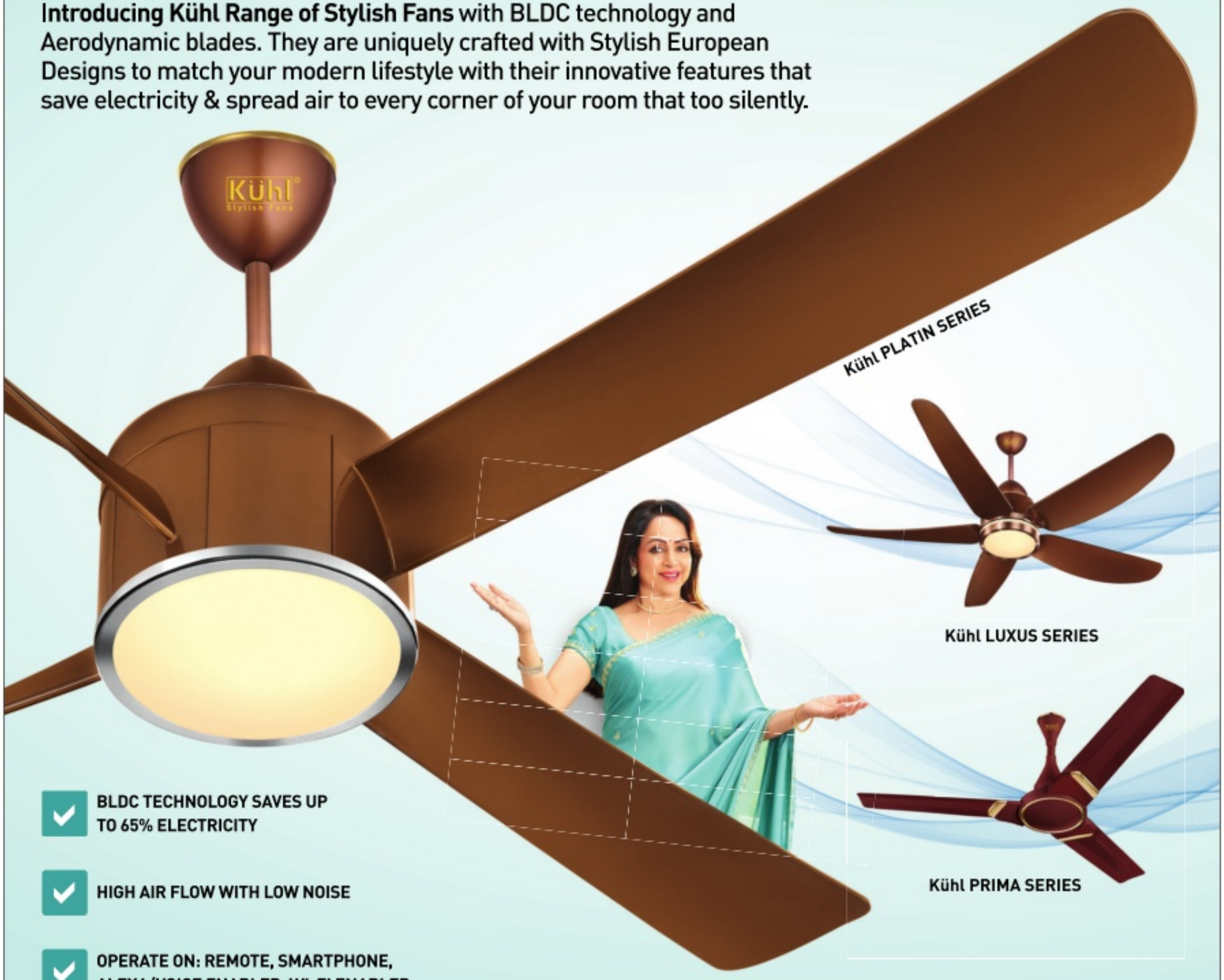

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The stage is set

Karnataka goes to vote on May 10; results on May 13

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar speaks during a press conference for the Karnataka polls

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Karnataka will vote in a single-phase election slated for May 10, and the results will be declared on May 13. The Election Commission (EC) announced the poll schedule on Wednesday, stating that the notification for the elections will be issued on April 13, and the last date for filing nomination papers will be April 20. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said that the nomination papers will be scrutinised on April 21, and the last date for withdrawal of nominations will be April 24. Kumar said the elections have been scheduled on a Wednesday, and not on a Monday or Friday, to encourage greater participation of voters. "People can take a day off and have a long weekend," he said.

The Model Code of Conduct kicked in on Wednesday with the announcement of the poll. But Kumar said that even before the code got triggered, strict vigilance was ensured by enforcement agencies on the Commission's directions during review meetings.

He said some people do not wish to enrol as the third gender, but the EC is willing to register them as the gender they identify with. Kumar said that in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, among the top 20 low voter turnout constituencies, nine were urban. This trend was also noticed in the recently held Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections held in 2022, the CEC noted. Focused interventions are being made to create awareness in schools and colleges and voter awareness forums in organizations and RWAs, he said. For the assembly elections, 58,282 polling stations will be set up in the state. The average voter per polling station is pegged at 883. Fifty per cent of the polling stations have a webcasting facility. A total of 1,320 polling stations will be managed by women officials.

Among the over 5.24 crore voters, over 5.60 lakh have been identified as persons with a disability, the poll panel said.

Voter information slips

To facilitate voters in knowing the serial number of the electoral roll in their polling station, date of poll, time, and so on, the EC has decided to issue a 'Voter information slip'. It will have a QR code and not a photograph of the voter. The slips will be distributed at least five days before the date of polling to all enrolled electors by the District Election Officer. However, the slips will not be allowed as proof of identity for voters.

The Chief Election Commissioner said that the nomination papers will be scrutinised on April 2; the last date for withdrawal of nominations will be April 24

Videography

All critical events will be videographed. The events for videography will include filing of nomination papers, allotment of symbols, preparations, and storage of electronic voting machines.

No loud speakers

The use of loudspeakers or any sound amplifier during the entire election period, starting from the date of announcement of election and ending with the date of declaration of results, shall not be permitted between 10 pm and 6 am.

Photos on ballots

During elections, it is common to have a number of namesake candidates in the fray to confuse the voters. Hence, the EC has decided to go with photographs of candidates on the EVM ballot paper.

This will help avoid any confusion which may arise when candidates have same or similar names.

Pre-poll wrap: What's Karnataka up to?

BJP list 'in a week'

With the announcement of poll dates, election activities have picked up in the state. All eyes are on political parties to see when they will announce their full list of official candidates. So far, the Congress and JDS have announced their first list. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Wednesday that the list of BJP candidates would be announced in a week.

CM cancels official programmes

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Wednesday that he has cancelled all government programs after the announcement of election dates for the Karnataka Assembly. "Last time, the announcement was made on March 27. This time we expected it to be announced after March 27. Since the model code of conduct will apply after the announcement, I have cancelled all my tour programs," he said. Bommai said that he will henceforth participate actively in party activities.

The CM also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Mysuru to launch a three-day mega-event on April 9 to mark 50 years of Tiger Project. From Thursday, 'Janata Darshan' programs at his residence will no longer be taking place, he added.

Truce between Somanna and BSY?

While Housing Minister V Sommanna clarified that he will stay with the BJP, he acknowledged that BJP Central Parliamentary Board Member BS Yediyurappa is the 'supreme leader'. Somanna and Yediyurappa were recently on the path of war, posing a serious challenge for the ruling party in the state. Somanna had skipped the Vijay Sankalp Yatra attended by BJP National President JP Nadda, alleging interference by Yediyurappa in his domain. Later, it was rumoured that Somanna would join Congress, and his photo with Karnataka Congress President DK Shivakumar in an aircraft fuelled the rumors. However, after the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Somanna clarified that he will not quit the party.

Congress to finalise second list soon

Congress chief DK Shivakumar and other party workers will hold a screening committee meeting on Thursday in Bengaluru to finalise the remaining list of 100 seats. Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Randeep Singh Surjewala, BK Hariprasad, and MB Patil will also be present at the meeting. Congress has already announced tickets to six women candidates and eight minority candidates in the first list of 124 seats were announced earlier in the month.

Will this be Siddaramaiah's last elections?

Yediyurappa already announced that he would not contest the forthcoming elections. However, Siddaramaiah said that he will contest the elections which will be the last in his political career. However, his detractors say that Siddu had made similar claims five years ago too. "After this, I am retiring from politics. It is my desire to represent my native constituency and place and retire. That is the reason I am contesting from Varuna constituency. Last time, there was doubt regarding the results of Chamundeshwari constituency. That is why I contested from Badami constituency. This time, I don't have any doubts. Since the people of Kolar constituency are forcing me to contest elections, I have sought a ticket from the party to contest from Kolar as well," he informed.

Dark matters that lurk in the waste

Studies conducted by Tata Institute for Genetics and Society reveals high positivity rate for SARS-CoV-2 in sewage treatment plants in city

Iffath Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For almost two years, the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) has been conducting sewage surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in Bengaluru.

Recently, the studies have revealed a consistently high positivity rate of up to 100 per cent in the city's Sewage Treatment Plants during March 20-25, 2023.

The surveillance was conducted across 28 sewer sheds covering 80 per cent of the STPs. The genomic surveillance showed a high number of XBB sublineages and BA.2 circulating in the city, as is the case for many other cities.

According to Dr Rakesh K Mishra, Director of TIGS, "With the increase in covid-19 cases and the high positivity rate observed in the sewer shed sites, it is important to have a close watch on the cases showing symptoms and increase testing on a larger scale."

The viral load had remained consistently low between August 2022 to February 2023, at around 1,000-1,500 SARS-Cov-2 genome copies per ml.

However, the numbers shot up in March, with a close to 6000 genome copies per ml viral load in the last week.

The sewage surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 is done every week by TIGS, and the report is submitted to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) so that they can take action in advance.

Dr Mishra emphasised that every case testing positive, especially if a person reports to hospital with symptoms, should be sent for genome surveillance so that we can keep track if any new variant of concern is emerging.

During the last week, the Nagasandra STP showed a higher viral case load going up to 50,000 genome copies per ml, followed by Horamavu and Rajacanal at 40,000 viral load.

Halasuru and Jakkur reported a case load at 30,000.

> **"With the high positivity rate observed in the sewer shed sites, it is important to have a close watch on the cases showing symptoms and increase testing on a larger scale**
> – Dr Rakesh K Mishra, director, TGIS

Regarding detecting the virus, the team collects water from the STP filter, removes debris from it, and isolates the RNAs from the whole water. Afterward, a specific kit is used to identify the number of RNA molecules from SARS-CoV-2.

Dr Mishra added, "As of now, there is no need to panic, but it is also important that people are cautious and follow necessary measures to avoid overcrowding of places so that the virus is not given a free ride and starts to circulate easily. Despite the XBB variant being mild in nature, it can still cause trouble to senior citizens or people with comorbidities. Hence, taking precautions is a must."

TIGS is also involved in conducting similar surveillance activities in Hyderabad, Pune, and Delhi.

Dr Mishra further added, "The environmental surveillance, even beyond covid-19, should continue as it will help in keeping track of other infections that keeping increasing and decreasing over a period of time or based on seasons. This way, the health system can arrange for the necessary medication, be alert well in advance and take the necessary steps."

Second Lalbagh to come up: Minister

Revenue Minister R Ashoka says proposed park will be built in north Bengaluru

Minutes before the poll dates were announced, Revenue Minister R Ashoka announced that Bengaluru will soon get a second Lalbagh near Yelahanka.

Ashoka said that an area of 173 acres and 39 guntas was available near the villages of Bettahalasur, Sondapanahalli and Kadiganahalli in Bengaluru north. This land belonging to the Revenue Department has now been transferred to the Horticulture Department to create a huge park in Bengaluru north.

The proposed park will be of a smaller size than Cubbon Park (300 acre) and Lalbagh (240 acre). However, as there are no huge parks (except a tree park at JB Kaval), this could be a bigger park in the northern portion of Bengaluru.

Ashoka said that the park has been transferred with a condition that no construction will take place in the allotted land.

However, there are plans to construct an artificial lake with boating facilities, open air theatre, fountains, and yoga centre as well.

An official said, "Though the announcement of a new park has been announced, it may take a longer time to materialise. As of now, the transfer of land has been made. Even though the land has been allotted, there are a number of hurdles like calling for tenders, awarding work and beginning the actual work." — BMB

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Soaring LPG prices trouble hoteliers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

present state, as our last resort, we are planning on increasing the prices in our menu up to 10% to recover the loss incurred," said Shridhar Poojary, the managing director of South Grand Veg restaurant. The cost of a commercial cylinder is double the cost of a domestic cylinder. The price of a 16 kg domestic cylinder is around Rs 1,150 and the price of a 19 kg commercial cylinder is around Rs 2,190.

"Currently we are paying Rs 60,000 every month. Apart from cylinders, the prices of other aspects such as vegetables, fruits, and other things required to run a hotel have also increased. We are incurring a loss of up to 10-20%. Looking at the prices of cylinders, we should adopt biogas cylinders," owner of Bigg Bite, Shripati Rao, said.

Amidst rising prices of commercial cylinders, hotel owners are unable to bear the burden of other expenses that come as a part of the hotel business.

Vijay Poojary, owner of New Shanti Sagar, said "I have been in this industry for 30 years; this is the first time the prices have increased drastically. Within a span of two months, there was an overall hike in the prices of cylinders forcing us to spend an extra Rs 600. A constant rise in prices has affected hoteliers. With a marginal profit, it becomes extremely difficult to pay our monthly bills, rent as well as the salary of our employees."

CLOSURE OF OFFICE

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, P.T. Kukreja, S/o Tikamdas R/o 10/1 Kukreja House, Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru-560001 will also be identified as Pahlajrai Tikamdas for all purposes.

I, RANJEET CHHABRIA, S/o. Gopal Chhabria, Residing at No.2144, Casa Serenita, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Hegde Nagar, Bangalore 560077. Karnataka India, have changed my name to RANJEET DAVID CHHABRIA, vide affidavit dated: 23.03.2023 before notary B.V.Nagabhushana, Bengaluru

I, Lavanya w/o Sangeeth.S R/o #9/9, Gopalappa Building, Sampigenagar, Huskur gate, Electronic city, Bengaluru 560100 have changed my name to Lavanya Ganesh affidavit Dt.29/03/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, RAMAGOUDA RAKESH PATIL S/o. Shankargouda, Residing at No. 695/B, At Post Hargapur, Hukkeri Tq, Belagavi - 591313 Karnataka, India, have changed my name to RAKESH SHANKARGOUDA PATIL, vide affidavit dated: 29.03.2023 before notary B.V. Nagabhushana, Bengaluru.

I, KM Uma Devi w/o Dhani Ram R/o Qtr No Vasant Vihar-04, Aditya nagar, Malkhed road, Kalburagi 585292 have changed my name to Uma Barman affidavit Dt.29/03/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, Bengaluru, presently my camp at Bengaluru

I, Srinivasa S R/o 118, 2 Nd Cross Lurdh Matha Church Kasagatta Pura Jhanatha Colony Hesaragatta Shilave Pura Bengaluru 560090 have changed my minor son's name from Sai Brahma. S to Sai Bhuvanesh.s for all purposes.

I, Pakeersab R/o 122, Hosakere, Hire Bannihatti Vtc: hosakere, po: hosakere, Sub District:jagalur, District: davanagere: 577528 have changed my minor son's name from P Imamsab to Imam Sab N P for all purposes.

I, Ashish Santosh Tiwari r/o 404, MDM Paradise HRBR Layout 3rd Block 3rd Cross 3rd Main Kacharakanahalli, B'luru-560084 have changed my name to Ashish Tiwari for all Purposes.

I Sudhakara Poojary R/o # E 504 Mantri Alpyne Apts, Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road, BSK 5th Stage, B'luru 560061 have changed my minor son's name from Master Ayush to Ayush S Poojary for all purposes.

I Reshma W/o Sudhakara Poojary R/o #E 504 Mantri Alpyne Apts, Dr. Vishnu - vardhan Road, BSK 5th Stage, B'luru 560061 have changed my name to Reshma Sudhakara Poojary for all purposes.

I, Anitha Shivkumar w/o Shivkumar S r/o # 211, 1st Floor, 10th Main, Nagendra Block, Bengaluru-560050 have Changed my name to Anitha K for all purposes.

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I, SUDHINDRA, S/o Ananda Rao, R/o Flat No.308, Kumari Amaranthine Apartment Sarjapur Road, Doddakannalli Carmelaram, Bengaluru-560035 have changed my name as SUDHINDRA A RAO, vide affidavit dated 28.03.2023 sworn before notary Y.V. Shankar. Bengaluru.

I, Sangeeth S/o Sadeesan T.K R/o #9/9, Gopalappa Building, Sampigenagar, Huskur gate, Electronic city, Bengaluru 560100 have changed my name to Sangeeth Sadeesan affidavit Dt.29/03/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I Mohd Ziyao Rehman r/o #47/A , 1 st Main Road , 1 cross ,Baglur Road Baba Nagar Yelhanka Bangalore-560063 have changed my son's name from Mohd Ishteaque to Makakmayum Ishteaque

I Mohd Ziyao Rehman r/o #47/A , 1 st Main Road , 1 cross ,Baglur Road Baba Nagar Yelhanka Bangalore-560063 have changed my son's name from Mohd Arman to Makakmayum Arman

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MAKE FRIENDS & KEEP THEM

How you can help your child socialise

Meeting new people and striking a conversation is not everyone's cup of tea.

While adults can somewhat make a way out of these difficult situations, it's not the same with younger ones. And it's indeed the worst nightmare to watch your child struggle to make friends or have a hard time fitting into particular social situations. Social connection and friendships are essential for self-esteem of the child.

It takes practise to make friends. There is no one-size-fits-all answer, but these tips might give you some suggestions on how to encourage your children to make and keep friends.

Teach Them To Ask Questions

There are numerous strategies for kids to start and carry on constructive interactions with others. Asking questions is one of them. Asking questions that are especially related to the person the child is speaking with is the best approach to establish connections.

Encourage your youngster to ask questions that require more than a simple yes or no response.

Be A Role Model

When your child is watching, it's critical to be mindful of how you interact with others. Do you engage in active listening after posing inquiries to others? Do you genuinely care about your friends and family? Children observe the people in their lives all the time, so be a good role model.

Follow Their Interests

This is the first step in developing social skills, whether it be taking part in a favourite sport, playing an instrument they enjoy, or joining a club they are interested in. This puts the child in the company of people who share their interests, with whom they will probably get along better. While being able to interact with people of different interests is vital, beginning with children who share your interests is a great method to more quickly develop social skills.

Use Pretend Play

Pretend play is a wonderful opportunity for youngsters to actively develop their social skills with both younger and older kids. Have your kids pretend to be someone they find challenging to communicate with or get along with.

This will give you a better understanding of who they are, or at the very least, how your child sees the person. When your child is acting out interactions with the person, trade roles to observe how they fare.

Offer ideas for how your child can communicate with the person more effectively. When giving your child advice, don't forget to use body language, such as smiling and making eye contact.

Make Them Empathetic

Children are considerably more likely to feel connected to others and develop strong ties if they have a greater knowledge of how others feel. Empathy education includes assisting kids in developing active listening skills. This entails paying attention to what other people are saying and then, once the conversation is ended, reflecting on what the speaker said.

Know Their Limitations

Simply put, some kids are more social than others. It is inappropriate to expect a shy, introverted youngster to engage with others in the same way as a child who is exuberant by nature. While some kids feel at ease in large crowds, others discover that smaller groups make it simpler for them to interact with their peers.

> **One strategy to start a conversation: Asking questions that are related to the person the child is speaking with is the best approach to establish connections**

It's crucial to keep in mind that your children will need time to develop strong social skills. Over the course of a lifetime, social skills are things that are developed and enhanced.

by Poulami Bhandari, for Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Compounds that can help cut weight without surgery

Imagine getting the benefits of gastric bypass surgery without having to go under the knife -- a new class of compounds may be able to do just that. These potential treatments significantly reduce body weight and blood glucose levels in laboratory animals.

The injectable compounds also avoid nausea and vomiting which are common side effects of current weight-loss and diabetes medications. Scientists now report that the new treatment not only lowers eating but also increases calorie burn. The researchers will present their results today at the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS). ACS Spring 2023 is a hybrid meeting being held virtually and in-person March 26-30, and features more than 10,000 presentations on a wide range of science topics.

"Obesity and diabetes were the pandemic before the covid-19 pandemic," says Robert Doyle, Ph.D., one of the two principal investigators on the project, along with Christian Roth, M.D. "They are a massive problem, and they are projected to only get worse."

Gastric bypass and related procedures, known collectively as bariatric surgery, offer one solution, often resulting in lasting weight loss and even remission of diabetes. But these operations carry risk, aren't suitable for everyone and aren't accessible for many worldwide who are obese or diabetic.

As an alternative, Doyle says, they could tackle their metabolic problems with a drug that replicates the long-term benefits of surgery.

Current drugs have shown great success in reducing weight and treating type 2 diabetes, but many people can't tolerate the drugs' side effects, says Doyle.

—ANI

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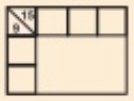
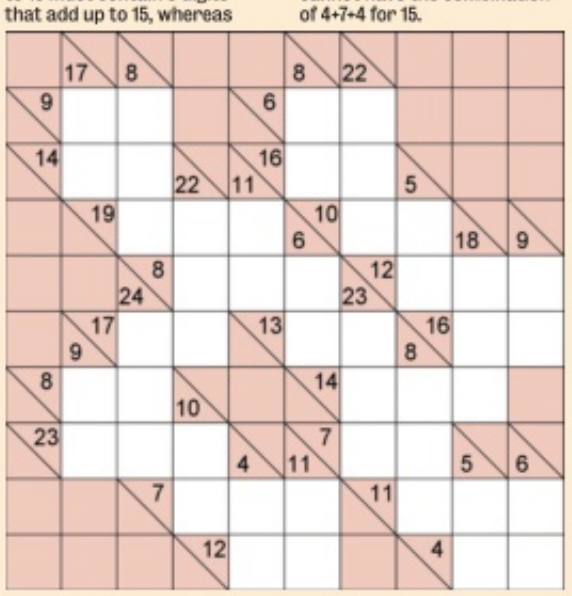
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

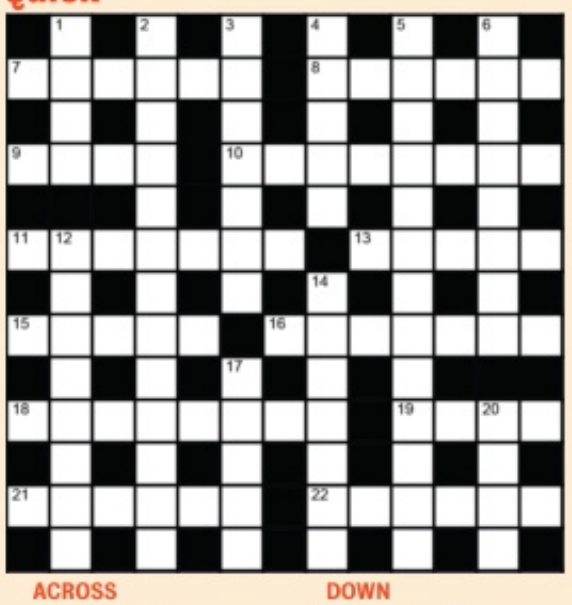


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Love-apple (6)
8 Agreement (6)
9 Unit of type size? (4)
10 Marsupial from down under (8)
11 Style or mode of dress (7)
13 Donkeys (5)
15 A precept summarising Vedic teaching (5)
16 Having an edge with rounded projections (7)
18 Foiled, frustrated (8)
19 Travel charge (4)
21 Famous landmark on the corner of Kasturba road and Vittal Mallya Road (2,4)
22 Manger (6)

DOWN

1 Asian desert (4)
2 Miscellaneous goods and chattels (13)
3 Tuft of hair (3-4)
4 Tease or bait (5)
5 Arranged killing (13)
6 Impudent, brash or sassy (8)
12 Capital of UAE? (3,5)
14 Positive bank balances (7)
17 Continues to be in the same place or condition (5)
20 Lower limbs (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS T

S ITDKEB TD VXG GX AK IKSDLEKO MEXI GJK VSGLEK XM GJK KFTH, ALG MEXI GJK GKICKE XM GJK DLMMKEKE.

Linemaro

I am jealour of your jewels because they are close to you

Mindchow

The proof that you know something is that you are able to teach it

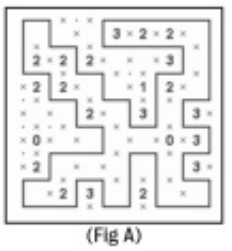
Joke of the day

Interviewer: What would you say is your greatest weakness? Candidate: Honesty. Interviewer: I don't think honesty is a weakness. Candidate: Who cares what you think

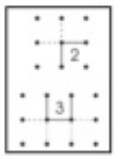
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

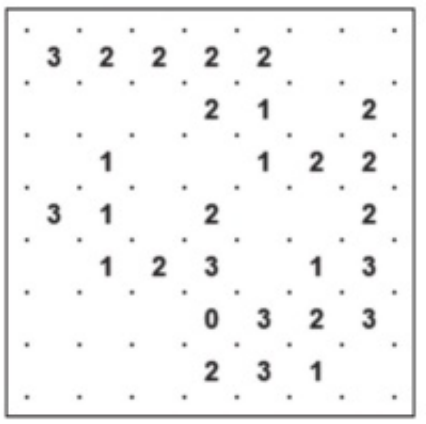


(Fig B) Not Allowed

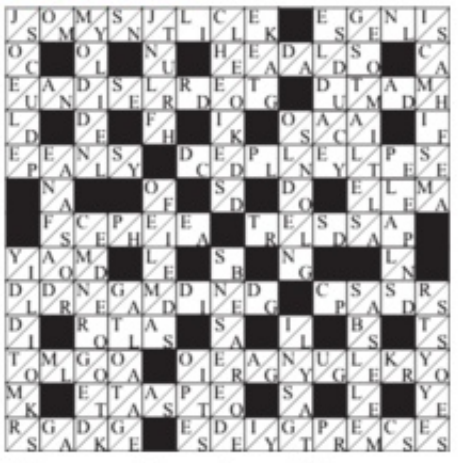
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



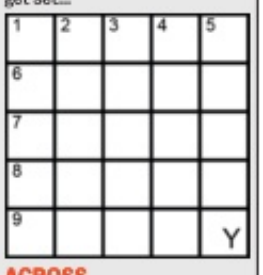
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 A cleg; 6 Adorn; 7 Paint; 8 Agree; 9 If Rye

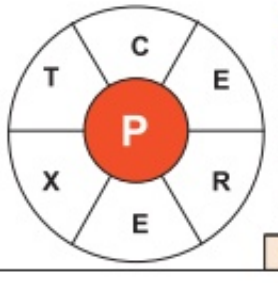
DOWN

1 If Erg; 2 Liana; 3 A aged; 4 Recop; 5 Try Ne

Mensapuzzle

Which square should replace the question mark?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

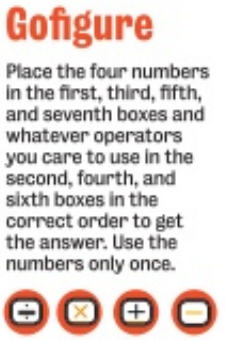
SudokuChallenge

1		4		7		3		9
				4	6			
7								1
	1		9		7			
3	2						7	5
			2		3		9	
2								3
			6	1				
4		1		3		2		8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

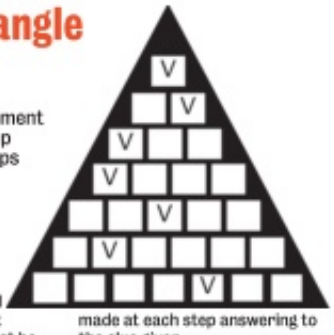
Differences: 1. Man has less hair. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Glass is missing. 4. Ear is smaller. 5. Hat is larger. 6. Woman's head is tilted forward.

Riddler

Often I'm beaten But never defeated On my thick skinned head Your blows are repeated. I shout at each one Though I take them in stride. And ne'er do I bleed For I've no blood inside. Who or what am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Volt
2 Avenue, abbr.
3 Anatomical duct
4 Passport endorsement
5 Tennis trophy_ Cup
6 Dodges or sidesteps
7 Disclaim or deny



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

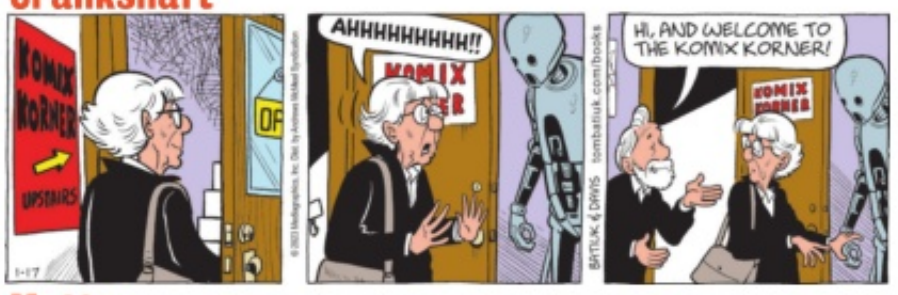
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at work and perform well, which may lead to incentives and rewards. Health-related issues of family members may be resolved now. Job aspirants are likely to get a good job. Love birds may enjoy their quality time.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may help needy people, which may increase your reputation in society. You might implement innovation into your work, which may increase your business and bring positive results that make you happy. Love birds may plan an outing or adventure tour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be dissatisfied and have some detachment from your responsibilities, which may confuse you. It is advised to be practical in your work and complete it on time. You may also need to take care of your parents. It is advised to postpone migrating somewhere for a few days and wait before acting.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be enthusiastic and more focused, which may speed up your postponed projects. Your siblings may help you start a new project that may give you profit in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job seekers may hear good news about a new job.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your financial health. You may be more creative today and use your creativity to decorate your office or home, which may enhance your social status. Love birds may likely get support from their family members to maintain their relationship status. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you peace of mind. Externally, you may face some work-related stress, but your inner sense may be calm and cool, which may help you balance everything. Some new sources of income may be opened, which may help you boost your savings.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull and face some old health issues. You are likely to be a victim of tiredness, which might make you arrogant, affecting your domestic harmony. Your profits may convert into losses, so you are advised to think twice before doing any financial transactions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel inner strength. Your losses may convert into profits, which may increase your business growth and liquidity. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to make some difficult decisions in the business. Your performance at work may be praised by your seniors. You may also expect to receive incentives that can increase your savings.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy at work. Your wisdom may help you make the right decisions, which may increase your business. You are likely to receive a big order that may expand your work. You may utilize your creativity to renovate your home or office, which may improve your social status. You may also invest in some creative assets.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, situations are under control, and you may be able to come out from the messy situation of the past few days. You may work with patience, which may reflect in your way of working. You may plan for an outing, and students may have good focus towards their goals. Singles may find love with the help of friends or relatives.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel unhappy and impatient. You may be a victim of mood swings, which may affect the harmony in your domestic life. You are advised to avoid arrogance at work, otherwise, you may create hidden enemies around you. You are advised to avoid rushing while driving.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be happy and spread happiness around you. You may feel harmony in your personal life and enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you in making important decisions, and you may also take some important decisions in your professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in business.

KIDZONE

Pranesh Kumar M,
12 Years,
New Oxford
English School

Angela
Saakshi,
9 Years,
Baldwin Girls
High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
-9/20*5-14 =>
(-45/20)-14=>
-2.25-14= 11.75

BULL'S EYE
creep, crepe, crept, except, EXCERPT, expect, expert, peer, pert

FAST FIVE

G	L	A	C	E
R	A	D	O	N
I	N	A	P	T
E	A	G	E	R
F	I	E	R	Y

RIDDLER A drum

QUOTE UNCODE
A misery is not to be measured from the nature of the evil, but from the temper of the sufferer.

STRIKE OUT

J	O	Y	S	T	I	C	K	■	E	E	E	L	S	■
O	■	O	■	H	E	A	D	S	■	C	■	■	■	■
M	■	E	T	A	P	E	■	S	■	L	■	T	A	H
O	■	U	N	D	E	R	B	O	D	■	U	T	A	H
O	L	G	A	■	O	R	A	N	G	E	R	Y	■	■
I	■	R	L	S	■	A	■	I	■	H	■	T	■	■
D	R	E	A	M	I	N	G	■	P	A	D	S	■	■
I	O	V	■	L	■	S	■	N	■	■	■	N	■	■
S	I	E	P	I	A	■	T	E	S	S	A	■	■	■
■	N	■	F	■	D	■	D	■	E	L	M	■	■	■
E	E	L	Y	■	D	E	P	L	E	T	E	S	■	■
L	■	E	■	F	■	K	■	O	C	A	■	I	■	■
P	I	C	A	■	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	■	■
■	■	P	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
T	O	M	A	T	O	■	A	S	S	E	N	T	■	■
B	■	R	■	P	■	U	■	S	■	■	■	■	■	■
U	B	C	I	T	Y	■	T	R	O	U	G	H	■	■
A	■	L	■	A	■	I	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	■
T	H	W	A	R	T	E	D	■	T	O	L	L	■	■
D	■	N	■	S	■	E	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	U	T	R	A	■	C	R	E	N	A	T	E	■	■
B	■	E	■	T	■	C	■	I	■	N	■	■	■	■
F	A	S	H	I	O	N	■	A	S	S	E	S	■	■
P	■	N	■	T	■	S	■	L	■	■	■	■

 # Come again After opening a can of worms in a podcast, Priyanka Chopra Jonas got into a sticky situation as she referred to the Telugu film 'RRR' starring NTR Jr and Ram Charan as a Tamil film

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

After a long break

Well-known lyricist, music and movie director V Manohar makes a comeback as a director after a gap of 23 years. Manohar directed two Kannada movies and his last film Indradhanush was released in 2000. His first film O Mallige was released in 1997. Now, Manohar has handled the megaphone for the movie Darbar.

Darbar is a story of the son of a landlord in a village. The movie is about how the landlord's son does moral policing in the village and what are the consequences of this. The movie also shows violence during elections to village panchayats.

Manohar has scored music for four songs and Real Star Upendra, Chandan Shetty, and Anuradha Bhat are playback singers for this movie. Satish, who has been associated with the Kannada film industry for over two decades, has written the script, screenplay and dialogues.

"I directed the Kannada movie Indradhanush more than two decades ago. Some producers approached me to direct movies but they did not turn up later. I could not say no to Satish when he approached me because the script was very interesting," said Manohar.

Satish, apart from being the co-producer, plays the lead while Jahnvi of Mr Bachelor fame is paired opposite Satish. Darbar will be the first movie for Jahnvi as a full-fledged heroine.

Brisk shooting

Director MG Srinivas is busy with the shooting of his latest movie Ghost. Dr Shivarajkumar plays the lead in this heist action movie. Malayalam actor Jayaram and Bollywood actor Anupam Kher also play key roles in this movie.

"I am handling the megaphone for a heist action movie for the first time. It is a story-based movie with no female leads or romantic songs. The movie is about incidents taking place in two days. We put up sets to shoot this film. Around 90% of the shooting is over," said Srinivas.

According to the director, the audio rights were sold for a big amount to T-Series. The director said Jayaram plays a police officer. "I can't reveal the role played by Anupam Kher. It is a very important character," he said.

He has previously directed movies such as Topiwala, Srinivasa Kalyana, Ranganayaki, Birbal, and Old Monk. "I am grateful to Dr Shivarajkumar for agreeing to play the lead in this movie. I approached him as he is the apt actor to play the lead. The movie has a few promotional songs but the hero has no songs," he said.

Complimentary call

Find out what Chitrangda told Saif about working with his daughter Sara

Actress Chitrangda Singh, who will be seen next in 'Gaslight', says she messaged actor Saif Ali Khan to talk about working with his actress-daughter Sara Ali Khan.

The actress was working with Saif Ali Khan in the 2018 film 'Baazaar' when Sara made her debut into the film industry with 'Kedarnath', starring late actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Having worked with both father and daughter, Chitrangda was all praises for them.

Talking about this, Chitrangda Singh said, "It's so strange that she (Sara Ali Khan) was doing her first film at that time when Saif Ali Khan and I were shooting for a film and now I am working with her."

"I messaged Saif saying how wonderful his daughter is and how happy I was to work with her. She is lovely and has great energy on set. I had a great time working with both of them."

'Gaslight' is a murder mystery and a classic whodunit. Produced by Ramesh Taurani, Tips Films Ltd. and Akshai Puri, 12th Street Entertainment and directed by Pavan Kirpalani, the film releases on March 31 on a leading OTT channel.

The thriller also stars Vikrant Massey, Akshay Oberoi, Rahul Dev amongst others. **–IANS**

Coming home

US-based Indian actress Freida Pinto is all set to visit Mumbai after a gap of three years.

She will be seen making a whirlwind visit to Mumbai to attend Christian Dior's special fashion showcase on Thursday.

The actress has been specially invited to attend and be part of the special show dedicated to India.

Freida, who has been amidst prep for her upcoming projects, will be taking a few days off to be part of this special celebration.

Talking about her India visit, Freida says: "I'm coming back home to Mumbai after almost 3 years and I'm so excited that this trip is also going to be a meaningful one with Dior. When fashion brands use their platform to highlight the incredible contribution from other cultures and in this case my own, my Indian culture, it's an association I cannot afford to not get behind.

"This has been an incredible year for India in the field of arts and sports and so it's only fair we add fashion to the list too."

Freida, via her production venture Freebird Films, is currently prepping for 'The Henna Artist' and Huma Abedin's biopic.

'The Henna Artist' is a series based on Alka Joshi's bestselling debut novel from Miramax TV written and executive produced by Sri Rao. Abedin's New York Times bestselling memoir, "Both/And, A Life in Many Worlds", will be turned into a TV series where Freida will star as Hillary Clinton's top aide in the project.

Not in vain

Actress Kangana Ranaut, who is busy with the post-production work of her period drama film 'Emergency, took to her social media on Wednesday and shared that although she feels proud about her beauty and feels good about herself, she has never fallen prey to the idea of vanity which comes quite naturally in the glamorous world of the movies.

The actress took to her Twitter and shared a collage of her pictures ahead of her trip. In the pictures, the 'Gangster' actress can be seen wearing an ethnic attire with her curls.

She revealed the selfies are a result of in-traffic boredom. She tweeted, "Encountered a lot of traffic while on my way to the airport today. So, I thought why not feel proud about my beauty. I may not be perfect but I never fell prey to vanity." **–IANS**

Maisie is here

Game of Thrones" star Maisie Williams is in India on a professional visit. The actor, who became famous world over for her role of Arya Stark in the HBO's epic fantasy series, took to her Instagram Stories to share the update with her fans and followers about her trip to Mumbai on Wednesday.

In a brief video, Williams excitedly said she couldn't believe she was in Mumbai.

"I just got to Mumbai, and I am losing my mind a little bit," she said.

The 25-year-old actor is in the country for fashion brand Dior's Fall' 23 show on Thursday.

In the clip, Williams also showed fans around her hotel room which was decked up with flowers and gifts. She also posted a mirror selfie sitting in the bathtub.

The actor rose to international prominence after starring as the strong-headed warrior Arya Stark in "Game of Thrones" on which she started working when she was 12. **–PTI**